

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED BIOPSY
AND COLLECTION OF SOFT TISSUE

Abstract

5 A method and device for the automated biopsy and collection
of soft tissue having a piercing needle with a receiving port to
trap tissue prior to cutting. A motor drive directs and
positions the tissue receiving port at a lesion site in
arbitrary positions about and along the longitudinal axis of the
10 device. A cutter advances into the receiving chamber and severs
tissue which has prolapsed into the receiving port. The severed
tissue is then removed from the receiving port without removing
the piercing needle receiving port from the lesion site, thus
allowing for the accurate, rapid removal of an arbitrary number
15 of core samples with only one insertion. A tissue sample
cassette provides storage for the samples as well as a means for
coding and decoding the location from which the samples were
obtained. Together, these features allow for more accurate and
complete sampling of large lesions, for the complete removal of
20 small lesions or removal of other tissue for a variety of
reasons.

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